

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Legislative Fund last week awarded Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) its Humane Champion Award. The award is given to members of Congress who took the lead on an animal welfare issue in 2008 and received a perfect score on the 2008 Humane Scorecard.

Rep. Farr was honored for his work on puppy mills and for sponsoring an amendment to ban the importation of puppies younger than 6 months.

"While in the California Assembly I took the lead on banning inhumane treatment of dogs, and I've carried that work with me to Washington," Rep. Farr said. "As we tackle our struggling economy, puppies may not be our highest priority, but if we can't make time to eliminate the abuse of dogs, I'm worried about what that says about us. I will continue to work on this issue and will be introducing legislation regulating puppy mills soon."

Every year, the Humane Society Legislative Fund compiles a federal Humane Scorecard to provide a snapshot of animal protection issues considered by Congress. The scorecard tracks key votes as well as co-sponsorship of important pro-animal bills and signing an annual letter seeking funds needed to enforce key animal welfare laws.

"We are tremendously grateful to Rep. Farr for his leadership on addressing abuses at large-scale puppy mills, banning puppy imports from foreign mills and seeking more humane methods of slaughter for poultry, as well as for his perfect record on our 2008 Humane Scorecard," said Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States. "In order to pass humane laws, we need humane lawmakers. Rep. Farr deserves this recognition for his compassion and dedication."

To view the full scorecard, visit <http://www.humanescorecard.org> .

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